

EPI INVESTIGATOR

The Alachua County Health Department
Summer 2009



“Improving Public Health in Our Community Through Cooperation”

**Alachua County
Health Department**
(352) 334-7900

**To report a disease,
phone or fax the
appropriate office below:**

Director

Jean Munden, R.N., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Jean.Munden@doh.state.fl.us
(352) 334-7903

Assistant Director

Paul Myers, MS
(352) 334-8892

Environmental Health

Director Anthony Dennis
(352) 334-7931

HIV/AIDS

Rick Trachsel, Surveillance
(352) 334-7968
Martha Buffington, Ryan White
(352) 334-7967

Epidemiology/Hepatitis

Isabel Anasco, R.N.
(352) 334-7900 x3480(temp)
Fax (352) 955-6464

Sexually Transmitted Disease

George Gibbs, MPH
(352) 334-7900 ext 3471 or 3470
Fax: (352) 334-8818

Tuberculosis

Gail Beard, RN
(352) 334-7988
Fax(352) 955-6464

Editor

Sheila Griffis



Novel Influenza H1N1 Update 06/11/09

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised By: Isabel Anasco, RN

the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6. **Phase 6 is an indicator of spread and not severity.**

While U.S. influenza surveillance systems indicate that overall flu activity is decreasing in the United States, novel H1N1 outbreaks are ongoing in different parts of the U.S., in some cases with intense activity.

In the United States, this virus has been spreading efficiently from person-to-person since April and, as CDC has been saying for some time, they do expect that we will see more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths from this virus.

In Alachua County as of June 24, 2009 we have 18 cases of + novel H1N1 influenza. Of these reported cases the age range was from 9 – 47 of age. The highest frequency (12/18) was in the 19 -25 age group accounting for 67% of all cases reported.

We are still learning about this virus and expect that, like all influenza viruses, it will continue to change.

There are some encouraging signs:

So far we have not seen an extensive pattern of very severe illness related to this virus.

Results of a serology study conducted by CDC suggest that some adults may have some degree of preexisting cross-reactive antibody to the novel H1N1 flu virus, especially adults older than 60.

And, this virus does not have the genetic markers for virulence that we saw in the 1918 pandemic virus, or that we see today in the H5N1 virus in Asia that has been lethal among people.

The real uncertainty is the fall and how the novel H1N1 virus will affect the 2009-2010 influenza season in the United States. CDC will update its guidance and recommendations as more information about the novel H1N1 flu virus becomes available.

It will be important that we continue to watch this virus carefully. Visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> for the updated information or call 1-800-CDC-INFO. In this website, information about the everyday steps to protect your health and lessen the spread of this new virus is also available.

Resource: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

World Hepatitis Day Observed

Tuesday, May 19, 2009, the United States recognized the second World Hepatitis Day (WHD). The 2008 theme of “Am I Number 12” was carried over for the 2009 observance because one in twelve people in the world is living with viral hepatitis. In fact, viral hepatitis affects over 500 million people worldwide. In Florida, nearly 300,000 individuals are infected with chronic hepatitis C and another 75,000 with chronic

hepatitis B.

Alachua County Health Department Hepatitis Program participated in the observance of WHD by a display of hepatitis educational materials including various incentives i.e. pens, hand sanitizers, and pocket flashlights in the ACHD lobby. Information about the 09 Hepatitis Screening Program was also made available.

By: Isabel Anasco, RN



STD Awareness

By: Ana Acosta,

Disease Intervention Specialists

Every year during the month of April the STD Awareness campaign is launched in efforts that the planned events and activities will help to prevent and control the alarming number of STD cases reported in Florida each year. This year Florida's campaign message introduced the 3 T's of STDs: 1. Talk to your partner and your health care provider about risk factors, safer sex methods and testing.

2. Test: Make an appointment for STD testing.

3. Treat the disease and avoid additional health problems. This message provided a simple way to create awareness. The message was displayed through different media such as educational posters that targeted high school students, college students, blacks, and Hispanics, and MSMs (men who have sex with men)..

This year at the Alachua County Health Department a comprehensive STD campaign was designed in order to do just that. Physicians, nurses, and disease

intervention specialists know all too well the problem is ever-increasing. The disease trends give us a good indication of the groups most at risk. Some significant prevention activities that took place in Alachua County during STD Awareness month targeted the youth and the MSM community.

Truly, the prevalence of STDs in our community stresses the need for prevention activities such as these. All in all, over 2, 000 Alachua county residents were directly reached through presentations and screening and through a poster campaign that was displayed in the city buses. Interactive presentations were provided at two of Gainesville's largest high schools- East Side and Gainesville High . These provided an opportunity for students to learn about the different types of STDs, ask questions, understand the risks and complications, and know where they can be tested and treated. Most importantly, they were provided with the opportunity to gain knowledge that could empower them to make better

choices about their sexual health.

The MSM community also benefited from our prevention efforts as two employees and one intern working in the STD Program dressed up in "uniform" (Black T-Shirts with shiny letters that spelled out "SAFE SEX") while passing out "condom shots" (cups filled with condoms and literature) at a Gainesville night club that is frequented largely by MSMs. Lastly, posters reflecting the 3 T's of STDs were displayed inside the buses that circulate Gainesville's busiest routes in hopes of targeting a larger portion of the community.

Undoubtedly, there continues to be a need for creative and innovative prevention and control methods in the effort to alleviate these high morbidity reports. Every April presents the opportunity for us to do our part in planting the seeds for positive behavioral changes. We anticipate that next year's campaign will be even more successful.

My Experience as an Epidemiology intern

By: Dyanne G Herrera

I am a student in the Epidemiology track in the MPH program at the University of Florida and will be receiving my degree by the end of July. As part of my internship for my degree, I had the opportunity to work as an epidemiology intern with Isabel Anasco in Infectious Disease at the Alachua County Health Department (ACHD). Further, for the special project component of the internship, I also conducted a health needs assessment in the City of Archer with Sally Bethart.

My experience as an epidemiology intern has been a valuable one. I have learned so much about the role of the ACHD and it has given me a chance to place what I have learned from the classroom in to real world practice. Working with Ms. Anasco, I have been able to observe how reportable diseases are processed and reported to the state of Florida and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), how to conduct outbreak investigations and conduct interviews in cases. Also, this experience has helped me to better appreciate the importance of disease prevention education and working towards containing or eliminating the spread of infectious disease outbreaks. I have seen the important role that epidemiologists and nurses play in the public health system.

I have also had an opportunity to shadow in the Immunization and Environmental departments, which helped me see how all the departments integrate their work to better keep Alachua county residents safe. From seeing the importance of children's immunization to the requirements for septic tank inspections and health inspections in restaurants, I was able to observe the importance each department plays and how they all work together to contribute to the prevention of diseases and aid in strengthening public health in the community.

During this time, I have also been able to learn more about the City of Archer, and the specific environmental and health issues that exist in smaller communities. As part of my special project I am conducting a survey to determine what are the important health and environmental issues perceived by the residents in the community. I hope my findings can bring awareness and mobilize the community into working together to improving the community's access to health and prevention programs.

Overall, I have a greater appreciation on the importance of the county health department and all the wonderful employees that work so hard in public health. After graduation, I will be moving to El Paso, Texas as a CSTE/CDC Fellow working with the Border Health Commission in Maternal and Child Epidemiology. I believe my experience as an intern has taught me many skills that will aid me in my future career goals.

FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*


Disease Activity	2009 Jan-May	2008 Jan-May	2008 Jan-Dec	Disease Activity	cont'd	2009 Jan-May	2008 Jan-May	2008 Jan-Dec
AIDS	31	21	35	Listeriosis (02700)		0	0	0
Animal Bites to Humans (07101)	18	8	33	Lyme Disease (06959)		0	1	2
Anthrax	0	0	0	Lymphogranuloma Venereum		0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	Malaria (08460)		0	1	3
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Measles (05590)		0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis (03840)	10	13	28	Meningitis, Group B Strep (32040)		0	0	0
Chancroid	0	0	0	Meningitis other (32090)		3	1	2
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	738	831	1749	Meningitis Strep Pneumoniae (32020)		0	0	0
<i>Cholera</i>	0	0	0	Meningococcal (<i>Neisseria Meningitidis</i>)03630		1	1	1
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Mercury Poisoning		0	0	1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	Mumps		0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis (13680)	2	4	13	Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning		0	0	0
Cyclosporiasis (00720)	1	0	1	Pertussis (03390)		4	0	8
Dengue (06100)	1	0	0	Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury		0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Plague		0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, Human Monocytic (08382)	0	2	4	Poliomyelitis		0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	Psittacosis		0	0	0
Eastern Equine	0	0	0	Q fever		0	0	0
Non-arboviral	0	0	0	Rabies Animal (07102)		3	1	3
Other arboviral	0	0	0	Ricin Toxin		0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (08200)		0	1	2
Venezuelan Equine	0	0	0	Rubella		0	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	SARS		0	0	0
Western Equine	0	0	0	Salmonellosis (00300)		19	16	82
<i>E.coli</i> 0157:H7 (41601)	0	0	0	Saxitoxin poisoning psp		0	0	0
<i>Ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis,hme e chaff. 08382</i>	0	2	3	Shigellosis (00490)		1	0	1
<i>Escherichia Coli, Shiga Toxin Producing 00800</i>	1	0	0	Smallpox		0	0	0
<i>E.coli, Other (41603)</i>	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus, VRSA</i>		0	0	0
Giardiasis (acute) (00710)	8	6	13	<i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i>		0	0	0
Glanders	0	0	0	Streptococcal Disease grp A inva (03400)		1	0	0
Gonorrhea	152	298	559	<i>Strep pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, Drug resistant (04823)		3	2	7
H. Influenzae Pneumonia (48220)	0	0	0	<i>Strept pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, susceptible (04830)		9	8	14
<i>Haemophilus influenzae, inv disease</i>	3	1	1	Syphilis		13	8	17
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates		0	0	0
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	Tetanus		0	0	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome 42000	1	0	0	Toxoplasmosis (acute)		1	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	1	2	Trichinosis		0	0	0
Hepatitis B (+HBsAG in preg women or child < 24 months (07039)	5	5	10	Tuberculosis		1	5	10
Hepatitis B Perinatal (07744)	0	0	0	Tularemia		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute (07030)	0	0	1	Typhoid Fever		0	1	1
Hepatitis B Chronic (07032)	26	32	74	Typhus Fever		0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic (07054)	104	126	254	Vaccinia Disease		0	0	0
Herpes Simplex Virus in < 6mo of age	0	0	0	Varicella ((05290)		19	48	57
HIV	32	25	59	<i>Vibrio Vulnificus</i> 05290		1	0	0
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) <12 yrs	0	0	0	<i>V. cholerae</i> Serogroup 01/ non 01		0	0	0
Influenza A, Novel or Pandemic Strains	3	0	0	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever		0	0	0
Lead Poisoning (94890)	1	1	3	Yellow Fever		0	0	0
Legionellosis (48280)	0	0	0					

Any disease outbreak (e.g., in the community, hospital, or other institution; or foodborne or waterborne) presence of a disease outbreak. All cases suspected and confirmed are included in this report.

Any grouping or clustering of patients having similar diseases, symptoms or syndromes that may indicate the

The NUMBERS (January thru May 2009)

By: Rick Trachsel, Surveillance

	Alachua Co (2008)	Alachua County (2009)	Area 3/13 (2008)	Area 3/13 (2009)
HIV	25	32	112	105
AIDS	21	31	89	99
Total	46	63	201	204

The Area-wide numbers do **NOT** include DOC cases.

YTD (Jan thru May) – Exposed Infants – Area 3/13

2008 – 9 2009 – 7 no infected babies either year

New Case Report Form

There is a new case report form from Tallahassee. If you are a provider, clinic, or lab reporting HIV/AIDS cases, please use this form. To obtain a copy of the new form please contact Rick Trachsel @ 352-334-7968. Thanks.

Keeping With the Pace Annual Conference

Finally, it is not too early to plan for the XVIII (yes, 18th) Keeping With the Pace Conference. It will held at the Hilton at UF (SW 34th ST) on Wednesday, August 26. This is Florida's premier one-day conference to bring you up to date with the AIDS World. See AETC website: <http://www.faetc.org/KWP>.